

Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association  
June 8, 2016  
Oregon Trail Room, City Hall

**7:00 pm Call to Order / Introductions / Guest Speaker**

President Jim Buck called meeting to order and asked those present to introduce themselves. 15 members present

Officers present: Jim Buck, Sandy Davidson, Theresa Tschirky, and Tracy Slack

Guest speakers: Jason McGowan and Peter Graves, Gresham Fire Department (Dan Moeller from METRO also attended since topic dealt with natural areas some of which are owned by METRO.)

**7:09 pm Plan for Battling Potential Wildfires on Gresham Butte**

Mr. McGowan explained that cooking fires are legal in Gresham but that camping in public parks or designated nature areas is not. The fire department does not have authority to enforce statutes on illegal camping. He said that 40% of Gresham calls are received by Station 31 in Rockwood even though that station is operated by Portland. There are 26 Gresham firefighters on duty at any one time. Should a potentially large fire occur on Gresham Butte, the Gresham Fire Dept. would depend upon the mutual assistance agreements it has with other area fire departments. He said, for example, that nearby Clackamas County has water tenders available to assist. To gain helicopter support there would need to be a declaration of a conflagration by state officials. Mr. McGowan said that any fire suppression effort would be based on multiple variables present at the time with priorities given to saving lives and property.

Dan Moeller said that camping is prohibited on METRO property except at the Oxbow Park camping areas and that ban is enforced by METRO security personnel. He said fire destruction or intensity is reduced when there is a healthy understory created by thinning of tall conifers in a forest. The discussion included limiting flammable vegetation near homes or outbuildings and using fire retardant plants such as Oregon grape (mahonia) and ferns near homes to prevent fires from spreading easily to dwellings.

**7:50 pm Minutes**

Minutes were not available from the May meeting and will be voted on at the September meeting.

**7:51 pm Reports**

There was no land use report activity. Theresa Tschirky said that the Association's balance was \$669.90 as of May 15, with a current balance of 444.91. , \$343.96 remains dedicated to the Dawncrest Wayside Project leaving \$220.05 in regular funds after the honorarium expense and police gift basket expenditure in May. GBNA received \$119.00 in final payment from the ECSWCD grant.

**8:00 pm Old Business**

Jim reported that the grant from the City was approved to help construct a sign displaying a map of the area on the Saddle Trail at or near the intersection midway on the trail. This sign would help walkers or other users know where each arm in the trail ended. He said he would contact Center of Advanced Learning personnel to see if students could assist in the graphic and sign design.

Jim said that a thank you basket to the Gresham NET officers was delivered as approved at the May meeting. It contained snacks, fruits, gift cards, etc. and was supplemented by donations from people outside GGNA as well.

### 8:10 pm New Business

There was discussion about the need for watering newly planted trees and shrubs at the Dawncrest Wayside. Jim said he would help water the plants to ensure they survived should the typical dry weather in the summer threaten them. Help was requested for the effort.

There was discussion about the need for continuing to pull herb Robert on the Saddle Trail, but no organized pulling or weeding event was scheduled.

Members raised the subject of National Night Out the first week in August and area get-togethers were planned for subsections of GBNA with Ron Ture and Theresa Tschirky handling Persimmon, Dennis Hoff coordinating Verde Vista and Binford Ridge, Sandy Davidson on Walters Hill and Mary Ann Buck and Byerly Woodward at Dawncrest.

Members thought gatherings would occur without the need for grant funds to support the effort.

### 8:25 pm Announcements

There is a meeting scheduled on June 29, 6:00 p.m. at Mt. Hood Community College to discuss extending the 40 mile loop trail over to the Historic Columbia River Gorge Highway.

### 8:30 pm Next Meeting

Next meeting of the GBNA will be Wednesday, September 14 although there was consideration for a change due to officers' schedule conflicts on that date. Jim thanked Mary Ann for again providing cookies.

### 8:35 pm Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Buck